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March 17, 2023

Senator Click Bishop
Alaska State Capitol
Submitted via email

Re: Letter of Support for SB90, Extending Alaska Minerals Commission

Dear Senator Bishop:

The Alaska Miners Association (AMA) writes to comment in support of SB90, an Act extending the termination date of the Alaska Minerals Commission.

AMA is a professional membership trade organization established in 1939 to represent the mining industry in Alaska. We are composed of more than 1,400 members that come from eight statewide branches: Anchorage, Denali, Fairbanks, Haines, Juneau, Kenai, Ketchikan/Prince of Wales, and Nome. Our members include individual prospectors, geologists, engineers, suction dredge miners, small family mines, junior mining companies, and major mining companies, Alaska Native Corporations, and the contracting sector that supports Alaska's mining industry.

For many years the Alaska Minerals Commission has provided lawmakers sound advice on mining matters that are important to the responsible development of the State's mineral resources. The group includes mining representatives with experience in all industry aspects including land rights, exploration, permitting, and development, and has independently advised the Legislature and Governor on ways to eliminate barriers on mineral development in Alaska.

Mining is Alaska's second largest industry, with seven large-scale producing mines, hundreds of placer mines, and numerous exploration projects around the state. Our mines provide approximately 11,400 jobs, the average wage of which is \$130,000, in over 90 communities across Alaska. Mining pays millions in revenues to local governments, the state government through rents, royalties, and taxes, and Alaska Native Corporations. The work of the Alaska Minerals Commission helps to identify way to multiply these significant economic and community benefits, and AMA is fully supportive of SB90 to extend the Commission to 2034.

Thank you for the opportunity to comment, and thank you for sponsoring this important bill.

Sincerely,

Deantha Skibinski
Executive Director